

Story #143 (Tape #73, 1961-62)

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The Successful Shepherd Boy,
His Evil Mother, and the Padişah's Daughter

Once a long while ago there was a young woman who lost her husband. She had a thirteen-year-old son who could not now receive any education, and so he became a shepherd. owners of the flocks gave him a few sheep for himself as for his work, and so he began to build a flock. By the time he had become an adult, he had a flock of between 400 and sheep. He was thought to be quite a wealthy man and fortunate, except that during this same time his mother had taken a lover.

His mother and her lover plotted to kill the boy so that they could have his fortune. They were afraid to attack however, for he was always accompanied by three ferocious animals which he had acquired when they were cubs: (a lion), (a tiger), and a (fox). These animals were very loyal to him and would do whatever he bade them do. *Helpful much*

One day the mother and her lover were talking together. "How can we kill him?" the lover asked. "If we can only accomplish this, his large flock will be left to you, and we can live very well from the income."

"You cannot kill him as long as his three animals are with him," said his mother. "I'll tell my son that I am lonely during the day and ask him to leave his animals with me for company. Then you will be able to kill him. If they are not locked up somewhere, they will tear you to pieces when you try to harm him."

They agreed to this and so the woman spoke to her son: "Son, I am often very lonely at home. Why don't you leave your three animals at home for company to me?"

"Very well, mother," he said, for he had always been very kind to her. To his lion, tiger, and fox he said, "You will remain here today with my mother and do whatever she tells you to do."

After the boy had gone, the mother shut up the three animals in a room. Then she said to her lover, "Take your gun and go and kill my son."

So the lover took his gun and set out for the hills where the young man was tending his large flock. Finding him there, the lover said to him, "I have come to kill you."

"Although I have never wronged you, go ahead and kill me if you will," said the young man. Before you kill me, allow me to climb this tree and sing a song. Then you can kill me.

"Very well. You may do that if you wish."

When the young man climbed the tree he called to his animals: "Lion, tiger, fox-----come and help me!"

The animals crashed through the door of the room where they were confined and rushed out. The woman tried to stop

them, but they paid no attention to her but rushed toward the young man. When he saw the three animals approaching, he started to climb down from the tree.

When the lover saw the animals approaching, he said, "Shepherd, this was ^{just a} joke. I wasn't serious about killing you."

"Very well, then," said the young man. "Disappear quickly, for if my animals see you, they will tear you to pieces."

The lover ran away, but not before the animals had seen

They knew who he was, for they had seen him at home with the young man's mother. The animals asked the young man, "What's the matter?"

"Nothing," he answered. "I just missed you. That's why I called you."

His mother and her lover, however, still tried to find a way to kill the young man. They decided to dig a well and throw the animals in it after they had poured their ears full of wax and shackled their legs. The following day the woman again asked her son to leave with her the three animals so that she would have some company while he was away tending his sheep. After he had gone with his sheep, the lover and the woman dug a pit. They shackled the lion and poured molten pitch in his ears and threw him into the pit. This they also did to the tiger.

the fox saw this, he simply jumped into the pit with the two larger animals. "There is no need to shackle him," the lover

said, for he could never jump out of this pit." Then placed a large wooden cover over the pit and upon this cover they placed a great heap of rocks. As soon as they had left, the fox untied the other two animals and took the pitch from their ears. The lion then jumped up against the wooden cover and dumped the rocks from it the first time, and then second time he knocked off the cover itself. "That man plans to kill our master," said the fox, and then all three placed their ears to the ground and listened.

Meanwhile, the lover approached the young man again and pointed his gun at him. "Here I am to kill you," he said. "Have you anything to say?"

"Very well. Go ahead and shoot me, but first let me climb this tree."

"You may climb it and see what good that will do you," said the lover.

Again, as before, the young man shouted, "Lion, tiger, fox—come and help me." Again they reached the tree just as the young man was descending.

And again the lover said, "It was all a joke."

"No, it wasn't. You can play that kind of joke only once."

"It was only the second time," the lover said, "not the third."

"Very well, then, leave here at once. I shall forgive you."

But as the animals arrived, they went at once to the lover and brought him before their master. The lion then said, "Master,

we are ashamed to tell you about this, but your mother has this man as her secret lover." Then they proceeded to tell him the whole story of their love affair and their plots to him. "If you will permit it, we shall tear him to pieces."

"Yes, you may do so," he said, and the animals killed the man at once. Then the young man went home and sold his flock. Taking three-quarters of the gold he got for the sheep, he presented this to his mother and said, "Your lover has been torn to pieces and lies at such-and-such a place. Go and bury him. You no longer have either a lover or a son, for I am leaving."

"Don't do that to me," she cried.

But the young man shut his ears and left at once. He travelled through many lands and at last came to a land ruled by a padişah. As evening approached, he stopped at the home of an old woman and asked if he could spend the night there.

"I should be willing to have you as my guest, young man, but you have some ferocious animals with you."

"Don't worry about them, mother. They will not harm you."

She showed him a room in the house where he might stay. The young man sat down and opened the small parcel of food that he had. He took bread and cheese from the bag and offered some to the old woman, and then the two of them ate. When they had finished their meal, the young man felt thirsty

"Will you kindly give me a glass of water?" he asked.

The old woman went into another room and there she

urinated into a glass. This she took back and handed to the young man.

"What is this?" he asked.

"Well," she said, "there is no water to be had in this land and when we are thirsty we drink our urine."

"Why is this?"

"There is a giant who controls this whole land. He drinks most of the water and ~~diverts the rest~~ to his own well. Once a year the country takes a young woman to him and after he has eaten her, he permits the water to flow for a few hours. That is the only time we have fresh water. But you are fortunate in coming here just now, for tomorrow is the time when the girl is to be delivered to him, and this year the girl is to be the daughter of our padişah. Everyone will be delighted to have a cup of fresh water."

"So, that is how it is," said the young man, and he went to sleep for the night. In the morning he saw a large crowd escorting the daughter of the padişah to the giant. She was dressed in her wedding gown and carried in a carriage. The court people were taking her to the edge of the town where they would leave her to proceed alone with her lala, a black servant who always accompanied her. The lala stayed with her until they reached the fountain of the giant and then he too left the girl. Seeing the young man approaching the spot, the lala said, "Turn back, turn back!" But the young man paid no attention to him and proceeded to the side of the padişah's daughter. The lala

whipped the carriage horses and disappeared.

As the daughter of the padişah wept, the young man spoke to his animals. "Soon a creature will appear from the water of this fountain. It will have nine heads. When the first head appears, do not touch it, but when the second and third and fourth, and all the other heads appear, tear them all to pieces."

The young man sat with his head in the lap of the daughter of the padişah, and after a while, he fell asleep, for he felt very drowsy. When the first head of the giant appeared, the girl started to cry, and the tears, falling on the face of the young man, awakened him. When he woke up, he asked, "What is the matter?"

"For goodness' sake, get up and run!" said the girl. "Never mind about me, for he will eat me anyway. You can at least try to save yourself."

"Don't be afraid," said the young man, "and don't go near the giant." He took her by the hand and started running in the other direction, the fox running along with them. When the ninth head of the giant came forth from the earth, both ^{the} lion and the tiger leaped on him and tore off all of his heads. When the fox told the young man of this, the young man then returned, gathered up the heads of the giant, cut out their tongues, and placed them in his bag.

"Let us go now," he said, and they departed, leaving the corpse of the giant and alongside it the heap of heads. When

they came to the edge of the city, the young man told the girl to go to her father's palace.

Before she left him, however, she said, "I'll give you what jewelry I have with me." She then took the three bracelets she wore on her arm and placed one around the lion's neck, one around the tiger's neck, and the last around the fox's neck. Then they parted.

As the girl approached her father's palace, the black lala saw her and said, "Why did you return? You were supposed to stay there."

"The giant is dead," she said.

"Who killed him?"

"A young man came along with a lion and a tiger and a fox. When the giant appeared, the lion and the tiger killed it and tore its heads off."

The black lala then said, "Now be quiet! You will tell everyone that I killed the giant. If you do not, then I'll kill you."

"All right," she said, very frightened.

The Arab went to the corpse of the giant and gathered the heads and put them into his carriage. Taking these to the palace, he shouted, "Good news, my padişah! I have killed the giant!"

Now, the padişah had let it be known that he would give his daughter in marriage to anyone who could kill the giant. He could not very well go back on his word, for it would have been a black mark against him. So he announced, "You saved my daughter, and

you shall wed her. Let the wedding ceremonies begin, and let them continue for ten days."

Cauldrons began to boil. Keşkek and lambs were cooked. Cows were slaughtered every day. The heads of the giant were hung up alongside the palace door. And the festivities had started.

In the meantime, the young man returned to the house of the old woman and said to her, "Mother, you may now go and fetch fresh water from the fountain, and it will never again be cut off."

At the palace the wedding had started, and the Arab was to marry the daughter of the padişah. The young man instructed his animals to go where they were preparing the feast and overturn all the cauldrons of food. This they did, and all the people fled the spot in a panic. They went to the padişah and told him that a lion, a tiger, and a fox kept turning everything upside down.

"Whose animals are they?" he asked.

When they told him that they belonged to a young stranger, he had the man summoned to the palace. Security men *** went and caught the young man and said, "Come along! The padişah wants you."

"Very well," said the young man, and putting the knapsack on his back and calling his animals to him, he went with them to the palace. As he reached the entrance, he saw hanging there the heads of the giant. Taking a dagger from his belt he cut the ropes that held the heads there and threw them down on the ground.

People standing there all shouted at him, "What are you doing? Why did you do that?"

"Get away!" he said to them. "That is my business."

When he was brought before the padişah his animals came with him. These fierce creatures frightened the padişah and he said, "What creatures are these? Do not bring them in here!"

***An obvious anachronism.

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But the young man said, "No, no, your majesty. Do not be afraid. They will not harm you."

"Why did you cut down the heads of the giant?" asked the padişah. "We had them put up there in honor of my daughter's wedding. She is to marry the man who killed the giant."

"Your majesty, those heads have no tongues," he said.

"How can that be? Where are their tongues?" asked the padişah.

"Look and see if they have not tongues," he said to his men.

"Why don't you ask your future son-in-law where the tongues are?" said the young man.

Thereupon the vezir of the padişah said to the Arab, "Well, where are the tongues from these heads?"

"Efendi," said the Arab, "these heads never had any tongues."

"Is that possible?" asked the padişah.

Then the young man said, "Your majesty, why don't you call your daughter and ask her if the giant was really killed by this Arab?"

The girl was called and her father asked her, "Who was it who killed the giant?" And all the while the Arab was making faces and threatening gestures at her. He stared so hard at her with his evil eye that the girl was afraid to answer.

"Your majesty," said the Arab, "I killed the giant."

"You lie," said the young man. "You didn't kill the giant." Then turning to the girl, he said, "Why are you afraid? Why don't you tell your father who really killed the giant?" Then he opened his knapsack, took out the tongues, and said, "Here, your majesty, are the tongues. I killed the giant, cut off their heads, and took out their tongues. My animals that are here with me tore the giant to pieces."

Turning to the girl, the padişah said, "Is this how it happened?"

"Yes, father," she said and started to cry. "I could not tell you this before, for the Arab threatened to kill me if I did."

When the padişah heard this, he ordered that the wild mule be brought from the stable and that a saddlebag of walnuts be tied to his back. "Tie this Arab behind the mule and then whip it into a gallop." This was done, and the walnuts made a "tıkır, tıkır" noise, frightening the mule. As he ran, the lala was torn to bits and every piece hit on a different rock.

Then the wedding ceremonies were started all over again, for the padişah now ordered that the young man should wed his daughter. The festivities went on for several days more, and after they were completed, the bride and groom were led to the nuptial chamber. Just before they entered it, the young man's mother appeared. She had been following him in his travels. The two embraced and the young man, not trying then to explain anything, started to cry.

His mother said, "According to the will of my husband, I am supposed to make ready my son's bed." She then went ahead into the chamber and made the bed. Knowing that it was her son's habit to sleep on the right-hand side of the bed, she placed a poisonous needle under the pillow on that side of the bed. And so it happened that when the young man lay down on the bed, the needle pierced his skin, and he died immediately. The girl was terrified. She nudged him and tried to rouse him, but there was no response. She then told this to the palace people, and they all came to see for themselves. Doctors were summoned to examine the young man and they pronounced him dead, but they were puzzled about the cause of his death. They concluded that he must have died of a heart attack.

Opposite the city there lay an island in the river, and they the young man's body to a cemetery there. They placed him in a boat and carried him to the island and buried him there. The lion, the tiger, and the fox swam over, and after the burial they returned to the palace to spend the night, for they had no place else to go. The lion said to his two companions, "Let us say "Bismillah" and then go to sleep and see what sort of a dream we have." All three of the animals then said "Bismillah" and went to sleep.

In the morning when they woke up, each was to tell his own dream. They asked the fox to tell his dream first, and this is what he said: "I dreamed that we would go to the cemetery in the morning and dig up our master. At that time a bird will appear, and we are to catch the bird cut out its brain, smear this on our master's eyes, and put it over nose. This will revive him." *P. ...*

When it was the lion's turn next to repeat his dream, he said exactly the same thing. The tiger also had the same dream.

"Shall we go, then?" asked the fox

"All right, let us go," his friends answered. And all three jumped into the water and started swimming, uze, uze gide. They finally landed on the island, and they set at once to digging up the body of their master. They took his body from the grave and laid it beneath a cypress tree, and then they hid themselves nearby

POLICE OF AYVALIK ENTERED HERE AND CAUSED A BREAK IN THE NARRATION.

SEE NOTES.

The bird finally appeared in the sky, and it started circling the spot, dropping lower, and lower and lower. The fox then said to the lion, "Now, please be very careful. You must catch this bird with one sweep of your paw or he will escape."

"Don't worry about that," said the lion. "If it comes a little lower I shall not give it any chance to escape." When it was about ten feet from the ground, both the lion and the tiger jumped up at it and smashed it between their paws, and it dropped to the ground dead. They took out its brain and put it beneath the nostrils of the corpse so that he could smell it; then they smeared it on his eyes. Soon after that the young man began to revive.

"He may be frightened if he wakes up wearing these shrouds," said the lion, and so they unwrapped the cloth in which his body was wound. carried him a short distance from the cemetery, and by then he had come to himself. Then the lion said, "I'll stay here, and you, tiger and fox, go back to the palace and tell them there what has happened. Let them come and bring our master's clothes."

When the padişah heard this news, he was unable to understand how it all could have happened, but he said, "Very well. Take his clothes and go to him." They did this, and the people followed them in boats, and when they reached the island, they were amazed to see the young man alive again. They put his clothes on him, took him aboard a ship, and returned to the palace, where they again gave the padişah the good news that his son-in-law was alive.

The padişah said, "Let there be a 32-gun salute!"

The young man said to his lion and tiger, "Go and find my mother at once and tear her to pieces, for it was she who poisoned me. Open my bed and beneath my pillow you will find a needle. That is the needle with which she poisoned me."

The mother was torn to pieces, and the young man disowned her. "She is no longer my mother," he said.

Then the wedding ceremonies were renewed and the young man and

the padisah's daughter were married. They were very happy, and they are still living very happily.